

VAAP ANNOUNCES PRODUCTION CUT

Third This Year — 121
Workers Terminated
Effective May 15
75-20-70

The third cutback in personnel and production since the first of the year has been made by officials at Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant.

"A reduction in production requirements for TNT" was given by Norl Hamilton as the reason for the 121 employees being cut off effective last Friday. Hamilton is plant manager for Atlas Chemical Industries, operating contractor for VAAP.

"This means we will now operate five lines instead of six," he said.

Shortly after last Jan. 1 the company announced a reduction of 225 employees. Then about Feb. 1 another 250-employee cut was initiated.

"We are trying to consolidate our operations," Hamilton said. "I feel it is pretty definite that we will operate the five lines for the remainder of the year."

A \$128-million modernization program has been announced for VAAP, but as yet no bids have been requested by the Army Corps of Engineers.

"As of Monday, we had 1,646 employees here at VAAP," Hamilton said.

"We are fairly sure the demand for TNT will remain at its present level for the remainder of the year," he said.

\$10-Million Pact Set for VAAP

75-24-70
The Army has approved a new contract of \$10,333,752 with Atlas Chemical Industries for the operation of the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, Sen. Baker announced Thursday in Washington.

The funds are for the operation, maintenance and nonproductive activities of the facility which produces TNT.

The contract is handled through the U.S. Army Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency, Joliet, Ill.

VAAP POLLUTION CHARGED IN SUIT

76-1-70
James David Lee, owner of a tract of land at Waconda Bay on Chickamauga Lake, sued Atlas Chemical Industries Inc. Wednesday for \$150,000. He claimed pollution from the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant is damaging his property.

Atlas is the contract operator for VAAP at Tyner. Lee asked for \$50,000 in compensatory damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages.

The suit charged that the plant emits smoke and gases which cover Lee's property for long periods of time, often making it difficult to breathe.

Not only is the emitted pollution irritating to the eyes it also corrodes roofs, gutters, screens and other metal objects and damages paint on buildings, the suit alleged.

Lee charged that the smoke and gases also have damaged and destroyed trees and shrubs on his property and, in general, damaged the health and comfort of himself, his family and guests who visit on his property.

He noted that he and other residents of the area have repeatedly asked Atlas to take some action to abate the nuisance but have been unsuccessful.

In filing the suit, Lee emphasized he did not desire for Atlas to cease any activities that would imperil the U.S. in maintaining a proper supply of TNT for the war in Vietnam.

Atlas produces approximately 80 per cent of the TNT used in the war.

However, Lee contended that Atlas is being well paid by the U.S. for the TNT production. In making a substantial profit with its contract with the government, the company should be required by law to operate the plant so as not to create the described nuisance, he said.

Lee's suit is similar to one filed in chancery court by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Wilson in 1965 against Farmers Chemical Association in which pollution of the Wilson's Waconda Bay lot was charged.

In disposing of that case, Chancellor Ray Brock awarded damages to the couple on the

Groundbreaking at VAAP Scheduled for Thursday

77-18-70
By CHARLES QUINTON

Groundbreaking ceremonies for construction projects designed to make the Volunteer Army Ammunition plant one of the most modern TNT production facilities in the world and virtually pollution free will be held at the Tyner plant beginning at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 23.

Lt. Col. Deryl A. Sisson, commanding officer, said Rep. Bill Brock will be one of the dignitaries attending, along with many other Chattanooga and Hamilton County businessmen and officials. Sisson said that Mrs. Albert Gore, wife of the Tennessee senator, will represent her husband at the event.

Construction of new acid production facilities costing \$15,467,000 will be the first step in a complete modernization program at VAAP. The first segment of the program has been funded approximately \$48 million and will include construction of three continuous nitration TNT lines to be contracted later this year.

Three Contracts

Three separate contracts are included in the new acid production facilities. Design and construction of sulphuric acid regeneration units will be by Monsanto - Enviro - Chen System, Inc., Chicago, at a cost of \$5,270,000. Design and construction of an ammonia oxidation plant at a cost of \$2,234,400 will be by D. M. Weatherly Co., Atlanta. Design and construction of a direct strong nitric acid unit will be by Hoescht-Uhde Corp., Englewood, N.J., at a cost of \$7,963,500.

"This is the first step and a very important one toward realization of our aim for a

completely modern facility," Sisson said. "Norl Hamilton, plant manager for Atlas Chemicals, the operating contractor, initiated the plan for modernization more than two years ago. Since then a section of Atlas planning engineers has devoted full time to developing the over-all program."

Sisson said the army and the operating contractors were especially pleased because the new construction will represent technological advances that will almost completely eliminate all air and water pollution at the installation. Contractors are bound by agreement that no visible emissions will be present when the new construction is complete.

The groundbreaking ceremonies at 12:15 p.m. will be preceded by an informal coffee, and a greeting and orientation by Col. Sisson and Hamilton and a visit to the site of the new acid area. Following the groundbreaking, a tour of the plant will be conducted, including a visit to the site of the plant will be conducted.

including a visit to the site of the new TNT lines, luncheon in the plant cafeteria and special tours and briefings will be held. Others who have indicated they will be present for the program include Ralph K. Gottschall, chairman of the board of Atlas Chemical Industries, Inc., Norman Miller, Atlas vice president, Scott Probasco, American National Bank, Col. Harry A. Griffith, district engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, and Lt. Col. Edward P. McDaniel Jr., professor of military science at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

grounds that air and water pollution had created a nuisance which had decreased the value of the property.